

Feb 7, 1897

EDITORIAL FROM THE N. Y. INDEPENDENT OF AUG. 6TH, '96.

A bit of warning needs to be given the Congregationalists that they do not stain their good record. We have kept our readers informed of the Orange Park school, Florida, which has opened its doors for both white and colored students, and against which the State of Florida has entered upon a crusade, by passing a law aimed especially at this broad act of Christian fellowship. The condition is very different in connection with another school under Congregational auspices, called Lake Charles College, in Louisiana. Last autumn, some colored students applied for admission to the college. Pres. Henry L. Hubbell replied that if his recollection was correct, the statute laws of Louisiana, like those of Florida, prohibited coeducation; but he would refer the matter to his board of trustees. He was informed that there was no such law in Louisiana. And Prof. Knapp, in the absence of Pres. Hubbell, replied again, Jan. 21st, more than three months later:

"Our board of trustees does not meet but once per annum, and that is in May. No conclusion can be reached until next May. You are perfectly aware that we cannot have coeducation in any part of Louisiana. Public sentiment is unanimously opposed to it. The question you raise is one of such moment that it will require the most careful conference by all parties interested. Dr. Hubbell will be absent some time, probably till May. It will therefore be useless for you to come here with students at present."

This refusal is absolute. Evidently they do not want any colored students to apply. In the neighborhood of Lake Charles College, the colored people need its privileges quite as much as the white. They have not as good public schools. This college was the booming enterprise of a town and syndicate that sought immigration from the North, which has failed on account of the decay of the agricultural enterprises.

The institution has a restricted white patronage, and including its subpreparatory department has but thirty students, not one of them in the regular collegiate course. It would be a wrong to the givers for any Congregational Society to continue to support such an institution.

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By Rev. C. H. Claiborne, Pas. Cong'l Ch. Corpus Christi, Tex.

(From the New Orleans Republican of April 26th, 1886.)

LAKE CHARLES COLLEGE AND THE COLOR LINE.

One Cong'l school at Orange Park, Florida, has met trouble by not drawing the color line. But another at Lake Charles, La. seems to be drawing that line to escape trouble. For application was made in behalf of a colored student, formerly in Straight University, New Orleans, for reception at Lake Charles as much nearer. And this was the response of the president, Rev. H. L. Hubbell, D. D.:

"Rev. C. H. Claiborne, New Iberia, La.,
Dear Sir:

Absence from home has delayed my reply to your letter of the 10th. You ask about the coeducation of white and colored people in Lake Charles College. If my recollection is correct, the statutes laws of La. like the constitutional laws of Florida, prohibit such education in the same school. In this case, your question of course is already answered by the legislature, as Lake Charles College, being incorporated under the laws of the state, deriving its existence and all its rights under these laws, must do its educational work under and in conformity with those laws. Instead of verifying to you my recollection, I will refer the matter to the next meeting of the Board of Trustees, and let them reply if they find I am mistaken.

Lake Charles,
Sept. 14th, 1886.

Yours truly,
Henry L. Hubbell."

There is no such precluding law whatever in La. The president was reminded of this, and the application was renewed. Then, the following response came from Prof. S. A. Knapp, speaking for the executive committee:

"Our Board of Trustees does not meet but once per annum, and that is in May. No conclusion can be reached till next May. You are perfectly aware that we cannot have coeducation in this part of La. Public sentiment is unanimously opposed to it. The question you raise is one of such moment that it will require the most careful conference by all parties interested. Dr. Hubbell will be absent for some time, probably till May. It will therefore be useless for you to come here with students at presents.

Lake Charles, La.,
Jan. 21st, 1886.

S. A. Knapp,
Chairman Exec. Com."

The refusal is most manifest, first evasively, and next squarely. Some questions naturally arise in view of this case. Should not Lake Charles College receive colored students, even tho' afterward left to these alone? Especially as the many colored people of the region need some such academic institution. And this with its restricted white patronage now in the sixth year, including a subpreparatory department has but thirty students, only one being collegiate and that irregular. And how about its \$5000, a year, mostly from the Cong'l Education and Home Missionary Societies? Would not the donors if knowing this use of their money withhold it, and bestow it rather on institutions which do not favor caste and discriminate against the poor and needy?

Rev. C. H. Claiborne, Pres. Cong. L. M. College, Tex.

(from the New Orleans Republican of April 25th, 1888.)

LAKE CHARLES COLLEGE AND THE COLOR LINE.

One Cong'l school at Orange Park, Florida, has met trouble by not drawing the color line. The school at Lake Charles, La., seems to be drawing that line to escape trouble. For application was made in behalf of a colored student, formerly in Orleans University, New Orleans, for reception at Lake Charles as much nearer. And this was the response of the president, Rev. H. L. Hubbard, D. D.:

Rev. C. H. Claiborne, New Iberia, La.,
Dear Sir:

Assuming that you have received my reply to your letter of the 10th. You ask about the suggestion of white and colored people in Lake Charles College. It is as follows:

Mr. Claiborne, who makes this statement, is one of the most useful and respected among the colored Cong'l ministers of the South. He followed Rev. Byron Gunner when driven from New Iberia, re-gathered the scattered flock, and had a very successful pastorate there. He was a member of our Cleveland Gen. Council, and had his theological education at Straight University under Prof. G. W. Henderson, As. Mod. of the Syracuse Council, through whose instrumentality the statement was made public.

C. I. Shattuck
Late La. Missionary.

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Lake Charles, La.,
Jan. 21st, 1888.
S. A. Knapp,
President, Lake Charles College.

The refusal is most manifest, first, obviously, and next, secretly. Some questions naturally arise in view of this case. Should not Lake Charles College receive colored students, even tho' afterward left to these alone? Especially as the many colored people of the region need some such educational institution. And this with the restricted white population now in the sixth year, including a supplementary department has but thirty students, only one being colored, and that irregular. And how about the \$5000, a year, mostly from the Cong'l Education and Home Missionary Societies? Would not the donors all know this use of their money with- hold it, and bestow it rather on institutions which do not la- vor cease and discriminate against the poor and needy?